

## Work plan for Part D research

**ISSUE:** During the past 3 years, the Commission has reported on various aspects of the Part D program such as how the market for private plans unfolded, how beneficiaries chose among plans, and trends in plan enrollment, benefit design, formularies, and premiums.

**KEY POINTS:** As the program matures, the Commission's methods for evaluating Part D are also maturing. The Commission and other congressional support agencies, federal agencies, and researchers are all poised to soon begin receiving Part D prescription drug event data from CMS. Over time, we expect to analyze access, quality, and cost of the Part D program more systematically, much like the Commission analyzes other health care sectors.

**ACTION:** Commissioners may want to provide their thoughts about staff plans for monitoring and improving the Part D program.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Rachel Schmidt (202-220-3721), Joan Sokolovsky (202-220-3720), and Shinobu Suzuki (202-220-3730)